

Minutes
Parlier Local Advisory Group Meeting
June 9, 2005

Local Advisory Group members present:

Ben Benavidez; Rosa Betancourt; Jena Ambacher, Teresa deAnda; Doug Edwards; Dr. Rogelio Fernandez; Raúl Gaona; Rey Leon; Harold McClarty; Richard Milton; Vernon Peterson; Martin Macareno; Carolina Simunovic; Matthew Towers. (*Absent:* Weldon Byram, Luci Dominico, Chris Haga, Israel Lara, Lou Martinez and Richard Velasco.)

Facilitator: Lydia Martinez

DPR staff:

Clarice Ando, Veda Federighi, Leonard Herrera, Tobi Jones, Pat Matteson, Randy Segawa

Audience sign-in sheet:

Andrew Chang, Kevin Keefer, Jim Wells, Elliot Balch, Ofilia Figueroa, Erin Field, Vidal Reyna, Karri Hammerstrom, Malinda Hall, Roger Isom, Renee Pinel, Tim Tyner, Manual Cunha.

1. Veda Federighi welcomed the new LAG members, went over the purpose of the meeting, and provided a DPR overview. Her notes are attached.

2. Led by Lydia Martinez, the LAG developed these ground rules for meetings:

- Don't interrupt others
- Be respectful and positive
- Stay on time (use a timekeeper)
- Stay on target and focused
- No side discussions
- Respect cultural differences
- Keep meetings informal (no votes taken)
- Honest dialogues/agree to disagree
- Stay positive
- Have fun

3. Veda explained the committee's role is an advisory one, and DPR considers this role vital to a successful project. If DPR decides not to adopt a LAG recommendation, staff will provide an explanation of why the Department did not do so.

DPR believes that listening to recommendations from advisory groups is important. For example, DPR made two important changes in the Parlier project in response to recommendations from the statewide Cal/EPA Environmental Justice Advisory Group (CEJAC). CEJAC recommended that DPR get input from university and other experts on

the scientific aspects of our project, so we formed a Technical Advisory Group. We asked about 20 scientists and other experts from universities, other State agencies, the agricultural industry, and others to serve. Minutes of their meetings will be posted on our Web site.

Another important addition to the project, made in response to a CEJAC recommendations to put more emphasis on alternatives analysis, was to have DPR's Pest Management Analysis and Planning (PMAP) unit do a study of pest management practices in the Parlier area, with a focus on least-toxic (integrated pest management) techniques being used.

DPR will ask LAG members for their input on agenda items.

4. Veda provided an overview of Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice Action Plan, and DPR's EJ project.

5. Randy Segawa provided an overview of the pilot project. LAG and audience members commented and asked a number of questions. Randy's responses, in summary, were::

- Air monitoring in communities other than Parlier would depend on the availability of resources.
- Ozone is monitored in Parlier on a continuous basis. Existing ozone data will also be used for evaluation.
- Pesticide air concentrations will be compared to "health screening levels" developed by DPR scientists, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Group. (Health screening levels are those below which health impacts are not expected.)
- When air monitoring results come in, it is difficult to distinguish between residential and agricultural sources of pesticides (although many of the pesticides that will be monitored are used exclusively or primarily in agriculture).
- Pesticides in water will be evaluated, as they are monitored on a routine basis.
- As with other monitoring projects, DPR acts immediately when harmful levels are found. DPR will also provide periodic progress reports for this project to the LAG and to the public..
- DPR has historical pesticide use data, but historical monitoring data focuses on individual pesticides in areas and seasons of high use. Very little air monitoring has been done for multiple pesticides in a single community.

6. Project objectives: At the recommendation of the LAG, DPR will expand the project objectives (*new objectives in italics*)

- Are residents of the community exposed to pesticides in air?
- Which pesticides are people exposed to and in what amounts?
- Do measured air levels exceed levels of concern to human health, particularly children?
- *Inform the community of the project.* This includes having bilingual open forums.
- *Reduce pesticide risk.*
- *Conduct follow-up actions.* This may include regulatory actions and/or education.

- *Put risk in perspective.* To the extent feasible (considering resources and available data), put pesticide risk in perspective compared to other pollutants.

7. **Candidate pesticides:** Randy went over the list of pesticides that the project can monitor for. At the next meeting, DPR will provide additional information on trade names of the pesticides, use patterns, and health effects of the pesticides for discussion at the next meeting. LAG members should be prepared to discuss and suggest pesticides for monitoring at the next meeting.

8. **Sampling locations:** Randy discussed the criteria DPR will use to select monitoring locations, and presented maps showing locations of schools and pesticide use in the Parlier area. Dr. Fernandez suggested that one of the samplers be placed at the United Health Center clinic in Parlier. LAG members should be prepared to discuss and suggest locations for monitoring at the next meeting.

9. **Feedback on meeting:** At the suggestion of LAG members, for future meetings:
- Agenda will be more detailed so that it would be clear as the meeting progresses where we are.
 - Agendas will note when the public will provide input, and when the LAG will. There should be an opportunity for both for each agenda discussion item.
 - Audience members should be asked to fill out cards indicating if they want to speak on a topic.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. July 21, in the same place (Nectarine Room, Kearney Agricultural Center, Parlier).